Amendments

In the claims:

1.) (previously amended) An ear coupler comprising:
an annular side wall;
a bottom wall, integral with said annular side wall;
an internal chamber, formed by said bottom wall and said annular side wall;
a port in said annular side wall; and
a highly flexible flange extending from and substantially around said annular side wall.

2.) (original) The ear coupler of claim 1, wherein said annular side wall and said bottom wall are transparent.

3.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 1 or 2, additionally comprising ribs in said annular side wall.

4.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said bottom wall contains surface features.

5.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said bottom wall contains a target to aid in placing the coupler over the subject's ear.

6.) (previously amended) The ear coupler according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said highly flexible flange is coated with adhesive, and wherein said highly flexible flange includes a barrier for containment of said adhesive.

7.) (previously amended) The ear coupler according to claim 6, wherein said highly flexible flange additionally includes a second set of surface

features to aid in coating said highly flexible flange with said adhesive.

8.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 1 or 2, additionally comprising an acoustic transducer assembly adapted to removably fit in said port.

9.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 8, wherein there is an interference fit between said acoustic transducer assembly and said port.

10.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 9, wherein when said acoustic transducer assembly is fitted in said port, the acoustic transducer assembly mates with the ribs in said annular side wall.

11.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 10, wherein said acoustic transducer assembly can mate in either an up or down position with said ribs in said annular side wall.

12.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 11, wherein said acoustic transducer can be switched between mating positions during use.

13.) (previously amended) The ear coupler according to claim 1 or 2, additionally comprising a tab integral with said highly flexible flange

14.) (previously amended) An ear coupler comprising:
an annular side wall;
a bottom wall, integral with said annular side wall;
an internal chamber, formed by said bottom wall and

said annular side wall;
a port in said annular side wall; and
a highly flexible flange extending from and substantially around said annular side wall, said flange being coated with adhesive, and having a barrier for containment of said adhesive.

15.) (canceled)

16.) (canceled)

17.) (canceled)

18.) (canceled)

19.) (canceled)

20.) (currently amended) An ear coupler comprising a one-piece body, said body having:
an internal chamber,
a port in communication with said chamber,
a highly flexible flange, coated with adhesive, disposed around said chamber, wherein said body is made by injection molding or thermoforming.

21.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 20, wherein said body is transparent.

22.) (previously amended) The ear coupler according to claim 20, additionally comprising a tab integral with said highly flexible flange.

23.) (original) The ear coupler according to claim 21, additionally comprising a target to aid in placing the coupler over the subject's ear.

24.) (original) An ear coupler comprising:
an annular side wall;
a bottom wall, integral with said annular side wall;
an internal chamber, formed by said bottom wall and said annular side wall;
a port in said annular side wall for receiving an acoustic transducer assembly, said port sized so as to create an interference fit with said acoustic transducer assembly; and
a means for removably attaching the ear coupler to a subject's head.

25.) (previously amended) An ear coupler comprising:
an annular side wall;
a bottom wall, connected with said annular side wall;
an internal chamber, formed by said bottom wall and said annular side wall;
a port in said annular side wall; and
a highly flexible flange connected with and substantially circumscribing said annular side wall, said flexible flange being coated with an adhesive for attaching the ear coupler to a subject's head.

26.) (original) An ear coupler comprising:
an annular side wall;
a bottom wall, integral with said annular side wall;
an internal chamber, formed by said bottom wall and

said annular side wall;
a port in said annular side wall; and
an acoustic transducer assembly adapted to mate with said annular side wall in an either up or down position.

27.) (previously amended) A method for assembling an ear coupler, comprising the steps of:
providing a one-piece transparent body, said body having an annular side wall, a bottom wall, and a highly flexible flange;
defining a port for entry of an acoustic transducer assembly in said annular side wall; and
dispensing an adhesive on said highly flexible flange.

28.) (original) The method according to claim 27, additionally comprising providing for surface features in said bottom wall.

29.) (original) The method of claim 28, additionally comprising providing for ribs in said annular side wall.

30.) (previously added) An ear coupler assembly comprising:
an annular side wall;
a bottom wall, attached to said annular side wall;
an internal chamber, formed by said bottom wall and said annular side wall;
a port in said annular side wall, said port having a longitudinal axis extending into and out of said port; and
an acoustic transducer assembly capable of being releasably attached to said port so that a portion of

said assembly extending from said port is generally perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.

31.) (previously added) A method of preparing an ear coupler for use in hearing evaluation, comprising:

providing an ear coupler assembly according to claim 30; and

attaching said acoustic transducer assembly to said port so that a portion of said acoustic transducer assembly is generally perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.

32.) (previously added) An ear coupler assembly comprising:

an annular side wall;

a bottom wall, attached to said annular side wall;

an internal chamber, formed by said bottom wall and said annular side wall;

a port in said annular side wall; and

an acoustic transducer assembly, wherein said acoustic transducer assembly has an arm, and wherein said arm extends laterally away from said port when said acoustic transducer assembly is fitted in said port.

33.) (previously added) A method of preparing an ear coupler for use in hearing evaluation, comprising:

providing an ear coupler assembly according to claim 32; and

attaching said acoustic transducer assembly to said port so that said arm extends laterally away from said port.